

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 IO-11 ARA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /090 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8735

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 07316

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, AO, MZ

SUBJECT: QUAI COMMENTS ON ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE

1. QUAI SOUTHERN AFRICAN OFFICER LODIOT TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 11 THAT LUANDA GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET RESPONDED TO FRENCH OVERTURES ON ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. GIVEN THE BUREAUCRATIC DISARRAY AND MORE PRESSING PROBLEMS WITH WHICH ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES MUST COPE, THE FRENCH ARE DRAWING NO CONCLUSIONS FROM THE SILENCE. UNTIL RELATIONS ARE ESTABLISHED, THE FRENCH PLAN NO AID TO LUANDA.

2. THE FRENCH VICE CONSUL HAS PRACTICALLY NO CONTACT WITH ANGOLAN OFFICIALS, LODIOT SAID, AND FRENCH INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON IS SCANTY. THE QUAI HAS

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THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT DIVISION

AMONG THE MPLA LEADERSHIP, ESPECIALLY ON POLICY TOWARDS THE WEST. ANOTHER PROBLEM APPEARS TO BE A GROWING DISSATISFACTION WITHIN THE ARMY OVER THE MULATTOES IN NETO'S ENTOURAGE. LODIOT CONSIDERS NETO TO BE A CONVINCED MARXIST BUT FIRST OF ALL, AN AFRICAN NATIONALIST. QUAI VIEWS ABOUT PM LOPO DO NASCIMENTO ARE DIVIDED; SOME BELIEVE HE IS AMONG THE RADICALS, OTHERS THAT HE IS A MODERATE. BUT, LODIOT SAID, THE QUAI HAS ONLY A VAGUE PICTURE OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE A POWER STRUGGLE WITHIN THE LEADERSHIP.

3. LODIOT THOUGHT THAT THERE ARE TWO IMMEDIATE DANGERS TO PEACE IN ANGOLA: A UNITA CONFRONTATION WITH LUANDAN FORCES AND, MORE SERIOUSLY, A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN ANGOLAN-CUBAN TROOPS AND THE SOUTH AFRICANS. HE SAID THE QUAI UNDERSTANDS THAT THE LATTER ARE SEEKING CONTACTS WITH THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, NOTABLY MOZAMBIQUE, WITH A VIEW TO OBTAINING ANGOLAN QUARANTEES FOR THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC PLANT AND AGAINST ANGOLAN SUPPORT FOR SWAPO, IN RETURN FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES. LODIOT NOTED THAT PM VORSTER'S ROOM FOR MANEUVER IS SEVERELY RESTRICTED BY HIS DESIRE NOT TO COMPROMISE SOUTH AFRICA'S ATTEMPTS AT RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE BLACK STATES, ON THE ONE HAND, AND BY THE NECESSITY NOT TO ALIENATE HIS WHITE ELECTORATE, ON THE OTHER. IN A PINCH, LODIOT FEARED THE LATTER CONSIDERATION WOULD PREVAIL, BOTH IN ANGOLA AND RHODESIA.

4. LODIOT INDICATED THAT THE QUAI HAS NO REPORTS OF ANY SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT OF CUBAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA NOR OF ANY CUBAN BUILD-UP IN MOZAMBIQUE. THE MOZAMBICANS HAVE NOT YET GIVEN AGREEMENT FOR AN AMBASSADOR AND FRANCE DOES NOT INTEND TO OPEN AN EMBASSY UNTIL THEY DO.
RUSH

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